

**Notice of Conference for News Media -- not for General Notice***Phytoremediation: State of the Science*

May 1-2, 2000, Boston

Many pollutants in soils are notoriously difficult and expensive to extract or break down. Can the power of green plants to take up chemicals from the soil be harnessed to clean up pollution? An upcoming conference sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency seeks to answer this question by reviewing the latest developments in the rapidly evolving field known as *phytoremediation*.

On Monday, May 1 and Tuesday, May 2, 2000, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will sponsor a conference entitled *Phytoremediation: State of the Science* at the Omni Parker House, Boston, Massachusetts. Phytoremediation is the use of green plants to clean up soil, sediment, and water that has been contaminated with metals and /or organic chemicals such as munitions, solvents and polyaromatic hydrocarbons. Presented by most of the experts in this field, this conference will cover the latest developments in plant biochemistry and biotechnology. This scientific approach makes ecological engineering possible in the clean up of hazardous waste sites and control of industrial effluents. Practical methods from agronomy, forestry and crop science developed over the last several years also will be presented to regulatory experts and industry representatives to determine how best to oversee clean up of hazardous wastes at the lowest cost to the taxpayers and consumers.

The conference will begin at 8:30AM on May 1st with plenary presentations on policy issues and the state and future of the science by:

- Mr. Steve Luftig of the EPA Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response
- Mr. Bob Mueller of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- Mr. Terry McIntyre of Environment Canada
- Dr. Steven McCutcheon, EPA Office of Research and Development and
- Mr. Steven Rock of the EPA Office of Research and Development

Continuing for two days, sessions will cover vital issues such as brownfields restorations, replacing expensive landfill caps with vegetative covers, fundamental plant and microbe processes, clean up of the most pervasive U.S. contaminant -- chlorinated solvents, innovative solutions for metal and radionuclide removal and groundwater plume control. Fourteen posters will be available for viewing and discussion from 6:00 until 9:00 PM on Monday evening, May 1. A copy of the agenda is posted at www.erg.com/phyto/htm.

The conference has been announced to the public and registration is now full. However, conference attendance and a general availability session with the eminent presenters from academia, government research and policy making, industry, and consulting can be arranged for representatives from the media. Any interested persons should contact the EPA at 513-569-7501 or colson.joan@epa.gov until close of business April 28. After that time, call the EPA contractor, Eastern Research Group, at 781-674-7272 and speak to anyone in the Conference Group about arrangements for the conference.